

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING

April 1, 2011

SB 1229
SUPPORT

Testimony of Carolyn Signorelli
Chief Child Protection Attorney



Commission on Child Protection
State of Connecticut

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Senator Coleman, Representative Fox and esteemed Committee Members, for the record, my name is Carolyn Signorelli, Chief Child Protection Attorney for the State of Connecticut.

I respectfully submit the following testimony concerning SB 1229, AN ACT CONCERNING EVIDENCE AND DETENTION IN JUVENILE MATTERS.

As many of you are aware the Commission on Child Protection and my office are responsible for the system of legal representation for children and parents in cases of abuse, neglect and termination of parental rights brought by the Department of Children and Families in Juvenile Court. My office is also responsible for providing Guardians ad Litem in delinquency proceedings and also reimburses attorneys for representing individuals provided with counsel through discretionary "interest of justice" appointments who don't pay for their services. It is my responsibility to ensure that children and parents receive quality legal representation consistent with the Standards of Practice that the Commission on Child Protection has established pursuant to its enabling legislation.

My office supports the provisions contained in this bill concerning giving pretrial credit to juveniles for time spent in detention prior to disposition, aligning the rules regarding admissibility of statements made by juveniles regardless of in which court the case was initiated, and providing discretion for a waiver of the "sixty-day evaluation of fitness and security risk" if the juvenile has been transferred from one facility to another and has already had such an evaluation.

Thank you for this opportunity to be heard. If you have any questions, I would be happy to answer them.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Signorelli